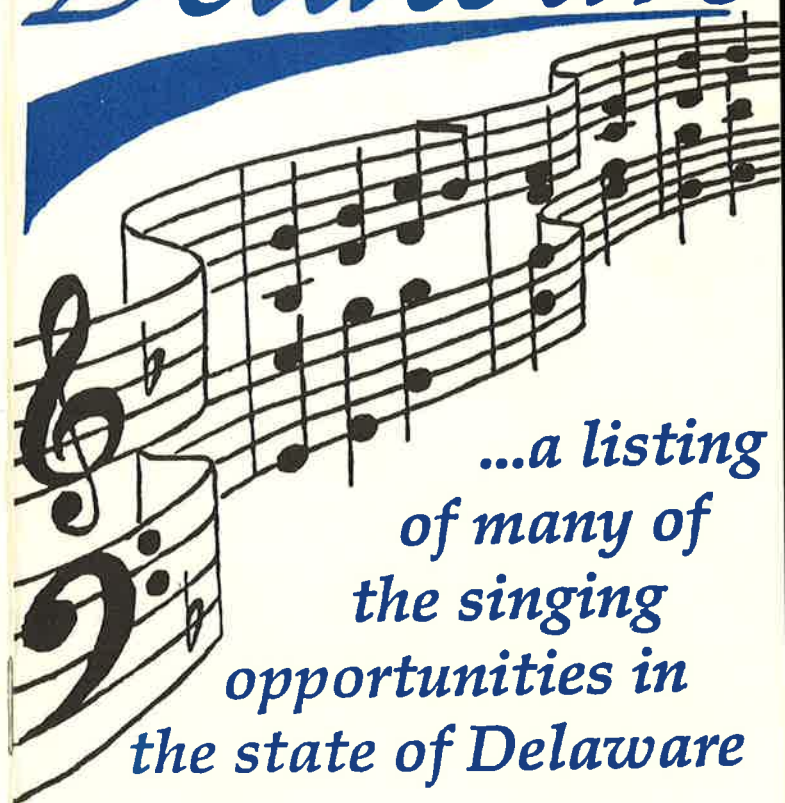


Sing in Delaware



*...a listing
of many of
the singing
opportunities in
the state of Delaware*

Made possible by a grant from Delaware
Division of the Arts, with support from the
University of Delaware

Hello--

We are glad that you are interested in staying with your singing!

Performing with a choral ensemble is one of the best ways to celebrate the glory of humanness. Through singing you can actually continue to create yourself...as an individual who likes to be involved with other folk in worthwhile activity--as an individual who knows the value of in-depth involvement with the artistic products of the best musical minds.

This pamphlet will introduce you to many of the experiences that are available to non-students in the state of Delaware. All of the choirs listed here will welcome your contact. However, many will ask that you wait until January or September to begin to rehearse with them.

The University of Delaware-associated Choral Union is listed first because the university has provided released time for the development of the booklet. Thereafter, choirs are listed in alphabetical order. Church choirs are listed if some of their singers are paid, or if they have a number of activities that have a significantly musical impact--in addition to the choir's normal function in worship.

We look forward to having you join us as we sing!

Sincerely,



*Wm. Andrew Cottle
Editor/Director of Choral Activities
University of Delaware*



*T. R. Masino
Realization/Artist*

Choral Union

University of Delaware

Contact Person

Dr. Andrew Cottle: (302) 451-2577. Please leave your number with the secretary along with a time when you can be reached conveniently.

Rehearsal Schedule

Monday evenings from 7:00-10:00 PM; with any additional dress rehearsals or performances announced at the beginning of each semester.

Rehearsal Location

Room 118, Amy DuPont Building, Amstel & Orchard, Newark

Monetary Commitment

Minimal: 1) You must purchase your music. 2) Men must provide a tuxedo. (Reasonable rental or purchase are available.) Women must provide a floor-length black skirt (plain) and a long-sleeved white blouse. (Reasonable rental or purchase are available.) 3) Occasionally, non-student singers are asked to arrange their own transportation to out-of-town performances. 4) You will be asked to assist with providing refreshments once each semester.

Description

The membership of Delaware Choral Union consists about equally of students and community people. Audition is required. That audition consists of vocalizing and music reading. The Choral Union performs as an independent unit, and with the Delaware Symphony. Literature for this choir is drawn primarily from the instrumentally accompanied master-works of Handel, Haydn, Brahms, Orff, etc. Critics in Wilmington and New York have been very complimentary regarding performances by UDCU.

The Conductor

Dr. Andrew Cottle is a regionally important clinician and guest conductor. He taught public school and at the University of Illinois before coming to the University of Delaware. His degrees are in Conducting (primary) and Voice/Pedagogy (secondary).

Aldersgate United Methodist Church - Chancel Choir

Contact Person

Evelyn Swensson: (302) 478-2575. Please leave your number with the secretary along with a time when you can be reached conveniently.

Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 PM; with any additional dress rehearsals or performances announced at the beginning of each season.

Rehearsal Location

Choir room - Aldersgate Church, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington.

Monetary Commitment

None: Bus trips to sing in Washington, Baltimore, New York, etc. are paid for by the church.

Description

Aldersgate Chancel Choir is an 80 member group and is open to adults who enjoy singing a variety of choral music, from the great masterworks with orchestra to new works for chorus by contemporary composers. The choir makes up the nucleus of the First State Chorus, which sings for special public events in Delaware such as the 1976 U. S. Bicentennial, the 1987 Constitution Bicentennial, and a visit by the King and Queen of Sweden in 1988. Chancel dramas, staged and costumed, are presented twice each year.

The Conductor

Evelyn Swensson (AB Hollins College, MM West Chester University) has been the conductor since 1969. She is a Choir Master in the American Guild of Organists and a Minister of Music in the Methodist Church. Evelyn is Director of Education for Opera Delaware, and has conducted 20 productions for them in addition to 30 oratorios and 30 chancel dramas at Aldersgate. She was presented the W. W. Laird award in 1988 for her contributions to vocal music in Delaware.

The Ardensingers

Contact Person

Jean Fava: (302) 239-1313

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7:30 PM, starting in February. Open auditions take place each November for the spring show.

Rehearsal Location

Arden Gildhall, 2616 The Highway, Arden.

Monetary Commitment

Membership dues are \$14.00 annually and include membership in the Arden Club.

Description

The Ardensingers, members of the Arden Club, perform a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta each spring in the Arden Gildhall. The group consists of singers, actors, orchestra members, backstage and business personnel.

The Conductor

*Lowell Rogers is the musical director for the April/May 1990 production, *The Sorcerer*. Susan Gray will be the stage director.*

Center City Chorale First and Central Presbyterian Church

Contact Person

David Schelat: (302) 654-5371. If not available, please leave your number with the secretary along with a time when you can be reached conveniently.

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesdays, 12:05 - 12:55 PM.

Rehearsal Location

Memorial Hall, in the lower level of First and Central Presbyterian Church, Eleventh and Market Streets in downtown Wilmington. Please enter from the Eleventh Street Parish House door, directly across from the main entrance to the Hotel DuPont.

Monetary Commitment

None.

Description

Center City Chorale is a 40-voice choir that consists of those who enjoy singing and who work in downtown Wilmington. There are, however, those who commute from outside the downtown area to sing with this choir. No audition is necessary. The Chorale performs usually four times per year during First and Central Church's Noontime Concert Series, a half hour series weekly on Thursdays at 12:30 PM. Literature is drawn both from sacred and secular works, and consists both of relatively large-scale pieces and octavos.

The Conductor

David Schelat studied at Ohio State University, Eastman School of Music and Syracuse University. Although his primary instrument is the organ, he has been conducting choirs professionally in churches for 11 years. He has studied conducting with Maurice Casey and G. Burton Harbison.

Christ Church Choir Christ Church Episcopal, Dover

Contact Person

Richard A. Givens, II: (302) 734-5731. Please leave your number with the secretary along with a time when you can be reached conveniently.

Rehearsal Schedule

Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:30 PM, September-May. Additional rehearsals, as necessary, are called only with advance notice.

Rehearsal Location

Second Floor Rehearsal Room, Christ Church Parish House, South State and Water Streets, Dover.

Monetary Commitment

Choir membership bears no monetary commitment. However, membership inherently implies an attendance commitment. The membership is expected to attend weekly rehearsals and Sunday morning services. If a long term commitment is not possible, arrangements may be made with the choirmaster.

Description

Membership in the Christ Church Choir is open to men and women. While an audition is not required, it is helpful for prospective members to have some musical experience. The primary purpose for the Choir is to provide musical leadership in worship. Other than Sunday morning services, public appearances for the choir include occasional choral evensong and annual Christmas Lessons and Carols. Literature for this choir is drawn primarily from the works of well-known composers of the Anglican choral tradition.

The Organist-Choirmaster

Mr. Givens has fifteen years of liturgical music experience in the Episcopal church. He served St. Alban's Parish in the Diocese of Easton before coming to Christ Church, Dover in 1982. He is an active member of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

The Community Singers, Inc.

Contact

(302) 736-9061, or by mail, address your inquiries to:
PO Box 47, Dover, DE 19903-0047.

Description

The Community Singers are celebrating their 40th anniversary of producing musical presentations for the Dover area. It all began in 1950 as the Dover Century Club Chorus with 18 singers. The group has now grown to an average showtime "populus" of from 100 to 150 people.

Since the Singers began presenting full-length musicals they have provided opportunities for talented area people to use not only their singing ability, but also acting, set painting, construction, and costuming skills as well. Some of the current members are third generation singers, production crew and ushers. We have many husband and wife combinations participating. Our more recent productions include "Cinderella", "The Wizard of Oz", "South Pacific", "The Sound of Music", and "Li'l Abner".

The Singers accept church, school, hospital and civic organizations' requests to provide programs gratis, as time and scheduling permit.

Delaware Chamber Choir

Contact Person

Jack Burnham: (302) 658-7326

Rehearsal Schedule

Mondays, 5:45-7:15 PM. Orchestra or other additional rehearsals announced at the beginning of the season.

Rehearsal Location

*Immanuel Episcopal Church, 17th and Riverview,
Wilmington, DE*

Monetary Commitment

Purchase of music. Tuxedo and dark suit for men; gowns (black, pastel and jewel-tone) for women. Yearly dues are \$35.00.

Description

The DCC is a 20-24 voice choir of the area's finest singers, offering the best in ensemble choral performance. Under the direction of Jack Burnham, the ensemble's repertoire presents a wide spectrum of vocal music including renaissance motets and madrigals, baroque cantatas, chamber works from the classical and romantic periods, and secular and sacred 20th century works. There are two major concerts each year (fall and spring), and several smaller performances during the Christmas and summer seasons. Participation in the two major concerts is required; it is expected that members will participate in as many of the smaller fund-raising concerts as their schedules allow. Participation in other fund-raising and organizational activities is strongly encouraged.

The Conductor

Jack Burnham is organist and choir master at Immanuel Episcopal Church, Highlands and Music Director at Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington. Mr. Burnham attended Houghton College in New York and received his Master's degree from Catholic University in Washington, D. C. Mr. Burnham directed the New Castle Choral Society from 1980-1983. He is active as both a teacher and a composer. This is his fourth season as Music Director of the Delaware Chamber Choir.

Delaware Choral Society

Contact Person

Cathy Crusco: (302) 734-8551.

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday evenings, September-April.

Rehearsal Location

Rehearsals are held in the Presbyterian Church of Dover.

Monetary Commitment

Dues for singers are \$10.00 per season. Concert dress is dark suits for men and long black skirts and long-sleeved white blouses for women.

Description

The Delaware Choral Society is made up of non-auditioned singers from all over Delaware. For the past thirty-three years, DCS has brought the music of great composers to Dover and its surrounding communities. Organized in 1957 to present Handel's Messiah during the Christmas season, the Choral Society has since expanded its repertoire to include the works of Bach, Mozart, and Brahms, as well as the works of other significant composers from the Renaissance period to the present. The most recent concerts have included Joseph Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass and John Rutter's Requiem.

The Musical Director

The musical director of the Choral Society is Judith Moore. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education and Voice from Elmhurst College, Illinois, and a Master of Music in Music Education and Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. She is currently preparing for doctoral work in choral conducting.

Delaware Festival Chorus

Contact Person

Mary Woodmansee Green, Music Director: (215) 572-5063; Naomi Campbell, President: (302) 658-9828

Rehearsal Schedule

Monday evenings, 7:30-9:45, with the possibility of an extra dress rehearsal before the performance.

Rehearsal Location

Choir room, Aldersgate Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pike, Fairfax, Wilmington.

Monetary Commitment

Dues are \$50.00 yearly. Members must buy their own music. Men must provide a tuxedo, and women must provide a black, floor-length skirt to be worn with a black sequined top (provided by the chorus, but purchased by the women).

Description

The Delaware Festival Chorus is a community based chorus formed to perform works ranging from the Renaissance through the 20th century. Organized in the spring of 1987, DFC performs about four concerts per season with instrumental accompaniment.

The Conductor

In addition to being the Music Director of the Delaware Festival Chorus, Mary Woodmansee Green is currently the music director of the Kennett Symphony Orchestra and the Mary Green Singers. A frequent guest conductor for state, county, district, and community orchestras and choruses, she was founder and director of Philadelphia Festival Chorus from 1977-1983, and was Resident and Assistant Director of the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia from 1971-1977.

The Delaware Singers

Contact Person

Steven Shine: (302) 733-0293

Jean Scalessa: (302) 652-2977

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:30 PM. Additional rehearsals scheduled the week prior to performances.

Rehearsal Location

Limestone Presbyterian Church, 3107 Limestone Road (Delaware Route 7), just north of Milltown Road.

Monetary Commitment

Men must provide a black tuxedo, white shirt, and a black tie. Women must provide a floor-length black dress with special collar. Provision of refreshments are asked of each singer for 1-2 rehearsals each year.

Description

The Delaware Singers is a professional choral organization presenting varied classical music programs throughout Delaware. The Symphonic Chorus, consisting of 40 musicians with paid section leaders, presents major choral works with orchestra, as well as concerts with a unifying theme. Music of all periods, nationalities, and genres are represented. The Delaware Singers Soloists is a select ensemble of 16 professional artists, performing primarily a cappella programs.

The Conductor

Dr. Peter J. McCarthy is an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Delaware. He is also Music Director of the Kirchenmusikalische Festtage in Salzburg, Austria. He has studied choral conducting at the Aspen Choral Institute in Colorado, and has studied under Helmut Rilling, Julius Herford, Virgil Thompson, and Nadia Boulanger

East Coast Opera Company

Contact Person

Dan N. Pressley, Nancy Gamble Pressley, Directors: (302) 737-1338, or Singers Representative Mary Ellen Hostetter (302) 762-4422.

Rehearsal Schedule

Arranged anew for each project.

Description

East Coast Opera is a non-profit performance organization founded to present operatic ensembles, scenes, and opera productions to the public. The group consists of award-winning young professional, semi-professional, and apprentice singers.

The Directors

The Artistic and Musical Directors are Dan and Nancy Pressley. Dan Pressley has long been known as an opera singer, recitalist, and teacher of award winning singers, and is an Artist/Teacher of singing at the University of Delaware. Nancy Pressley has been her husband's keyboard accompanist for many years and is well known in this country and in Europe as a vocal coach.

First and Central Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Contact Person

David Schelat: (302) 654-5371. If not available, please leave your number with the secretary along with a time when you can be reached conveniently.

Rehearsal Schedule

Thursday evenings, 7:30 - 9:15 PM. Occasional extra rehearsals are announced well in advance.

Rehearsal Location

Second floor choir room in First and Central Presbyterian Church, Eleventh and Market Streets in downtown Wilmington. Please enter from the Eleventh Street Parish House door, directly across from the main entrance to the Hotel DuPont.

Monetary Commitment

None.

Description

The Chancel Choir of First and Central Presbyterian Church consists of about 24 professional and volunteer singers. The main function of this ensemble is to provide leadership through music during worship services at First and Central Church. Besides leading congregational singing, anthems along with solos and small ensembles are sung during worship. Literature is drawn from significant sacred choral literature, from Renaissance through Twentieth Century treasures. Occasional concerts (usually one or two per season) are presented on Sunday evenings at the Church, with chamber orchestra accompaniment.

The Conductor

David Schelat studied at Ohio State University, Eastman School of Music and Syracuse University. Although his primary instrument is the organ, he has been conducting choirs professionally in churches for 11 years. He has studied conducting with Maurice Casey and G. Burton Harbison.

Grace United Methodist Church

Contact Person

Donald L. Rittenhouse, Director of Music: (302) 655-8847 (church) or (302) 368-1055 (home).

Rehearsal Schedule

*Early service choir-Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 PM
Late service choir-Thursday evenings 7:30-9:30 PM*

Rehearsal Location

Choir vestry-903 West Street, Wilmington.

Monetary Commitment

None.

Description

Grace Church has two Sunday services and two separate adult choirs. The 9:30 service choir performs contemporary Christian music and uses piano and organ as accompaniment. This volunteer choir has about 20 singers. The 11:00 service has a Chancel Choir of 40 voices and performs the traditional music of the church. This choir is comprised of both professional and volunteer singers. In addition to Sunday worship services, this choir performs regularly in concert and is accompanied by professional instrumentalists. These special concerts are an outreach of the church and often require additional singers.

The Conductor

Donald L. Rittenhouse has contributed more than 30 years to church music performance. Hailed as a proponent of the best church music, he is in his 17th year at Grace Church. He has served as clinician, adjudicator, and conductor of many organizations.

New Ark Chorale

Contact Person

*James Green, Business Manager: (302) 368-4946
Dr. Michael H. Larkin, Music Director: (302) 652-6120*

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday evenings, 7:30 - 9:30 PM, with an occasional extra rehearsal or dress rehearsal on Saturday mornings, announced early in each season. Seasons are Sept.-Dec., Jan.-June.

Rehearsal Location

Newark United Methodist Church, 69 East Main Street, Newark.

Monetary Commitment

1) Minimal dues for each half year (season), currently of \$25.00. 2) Men must provide a tuxedo. Women must provide the current standard dress, available on a pro-rated scale.

Description

The New Ark Chorale is a 20-25 voice choir which sings a wide range of classical literature (from Bach to Rutter, from madrigals, Morley, and Mozart to Broadway and beyond). Because of its size, the choir can produce a very intimate chamber sound. Audition is required as openings occur, usually in August and January.

The Conductor

Dr. Michael Larkin is known in the area as a teacher, vocal coach, and singer, as well as a conductor. He is a member of the music faculty at the Wilmington Music School, an organist/choir director, and a composer and arranger with a growing number of compositions published. His degrees are in vocal performance, music education, and music arts.

The Northern Delaware Oratorio Society

Contact Person

*Jean Mosteller, Business Manager: (302) 737-1082;
Sheila and Calvin Bourgeault, Artistic Directors: (215) 274-8468*

Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 PM with additional rehearsals announced and posted.

Rehearsal Location

St. James Episcopal Church Parish Hall on St. James Church Road, near the Midway Shopping Center.

Monetary Commitment

Dues are \$10 per year for chorus members. Music is available either to purchase or borrow. Ladies are required to wear full length black skirts and long sleeved white blouses for concerts; gentlemen wear dark suits, white shirts, and conservative four-in-hand ties.

Description

The Northern Delaware Oratorio Society was founded 20 years ago to provide opportunities for amateur singers to learn and perform major choral works. Through NDOS, hundreds of singers have been able to continue their interest in music and participate in the cultural life of their community. We believe, (and there is ample evidence) that a strong community choral society enriches the broader musical community by refining the vocal talent base, as well as by developing an enthusiastic and informed audience. NDOS presents two concerts a year - one in winter and one in spring.

The Artistic Advisors

Shiela and Calvin Bourgeault serve as permanent conductors and artistic advisors to the Society. Shiela Grady Bourgeault holds a Master of Choral Conducting degree from Temple University. Mrs. Bourgeault, at present, is on sabbatical from her position as Chair of the Music Department of the Kennett Consolidated School District. Calvin Bourgeault, having recently left the profession of secondary school music teaching, is a free lance conductor, keyboard player, singer and piano teacher.

Opera Delaware Chorus

Contact Person

Leland P. Kimball: (302) 658-8063. Please leave your number and address with the secretary, along with a time when you can be reached conveniently.

Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday and Tuesday evening rehearsals from 7:00-10:00 PM during the opera season. Dress rehearsals and performances are in addition and are announced for each opera. Usual periods are in September through November for the Fall production, and January or February Through early May for the Spring production.

Rehearsal Location

Rehearsals are either at St. Andrews Church Annex, 8th & Shipley Streets in downtown Wilmington, or at Opera Studios at 4 South Poplar Street, two blocks from the train station in down town Wilmington.

Monetary Commitment

Minimal; music is provided. You must provide your own transportation.

Description

Membership in the Opera Delaware Chorus consists of community members from all walks of life. Acceptance into the Chorus follows an audition arranged with the chorus master and/or musical conductor. Separate auditions are held for section leaders who receive a modest remuneration. Chorus size varies with the Opera selection. Separate performances have been held with the chorus along with other musical organizations such as the Newark Symphony. Opera Delaware is a nationally recognized regional opera company and a member of Opera America. The Chorus is now in its 46th season.

The Conductors/Chorus Masters

Different chorus masters and musical conductors are selected for each opera.

The Singers of Delaware Saengerbund

Contact Person

David P. Linton: (302) 322-2788
Charles Berr: (302) 478-2058
Hilmar Fricke: (302) 731-5904

Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 PM, with additional times, if needed, announced in advance.

Rehearsal Location

Delaware Saengerbund, 49 Salem Church Road, Ogleton, DE.

Monetary Commitment

Arrange for appropriate concert dress at an investment of approximately \$100. Transportation for distant engagements provided by Delaware Saengerbund (bus, usually). Music is provided free of charge. There is no membership fee.

Description

Audition consisting of vocalizing is required. The group functions primarily for the furtherance of the German musical heritage in America and participates in activities/ concerts involving other choruses in the "German circuit". Usually the chorus is involved in 6-8 concerts annually. Literature is from the German composers: Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, etc., and is performed accompanied and unaccompanied.

The Conductor

David Linton has worked in high school choral music in Delaware for several years, and has been with this group since 1986. He has degrees from West Chester University and Temple University with additional graduate work at several institutions. His degrees are in Music Education and Music History/Literature.

Southern Delaware Choral Society

Contact Person

Elizabeth A. Hochholzer: (302) 227-2227. Please leave your number on the machine, together with a convenient time that your call can be returned.

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday evenings, 7:30 - 9:30 PM, September thru March.

Rehearsal Location

Music room, Sussex Central High School, Georgetown-with dress rehearsals at the designated place of performance the Tuesday prior to the performance.

Monetary Commitment

Singers pay dues of \$20.00 a year, to cover the cost of music. For performances, men wear dark suits and ties, and women wear long black skirts and long-sleeved white blouses. Members are expected to assist in soliciting advertising and patron support for concert booklets, and to contribute refreshments for receptions following concerts.

Description

The Southern Delaware Choral Society is the only choral society south of Dover. SDCS receives support from the Delaware Division of the Arts, and performs in various locations in southern Delaware. It has sung with the Baroque Orchestra of the Delaware Symphony as well as with orchestras comprised of musicians from the region. The organization presents distinguished guest soloists from Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Wilmington as a regular feature of its series. Program selections are drawn from the master-works of Handel, Bach, Mozart, Saint-Saens, etc., as well from contemporary composers such as John Rutter. Potential members are encouraged to audition in September for the Christmas concert and in January for the Spring concert.

The Conductor

Richard Eckerd has been director of SDCS since its inception. He is Music Department Chair at Indian River High School, and music director at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rehoboth Beach, for the Miss Delaware Pageant, and for numerous community theatre productions.

The Westminster Choir

Contact Person

Patrick F. Downes: (302) 737-7288.

Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Rehearsal Location

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pennsylvania at Rodney Street, Wilmington

Description

Westminster Presbyterian Church is the largest Presbyterian Church in the Piedmont Presbytery, 1700 members strong. A rich musical heritage has prevailed throughout its 105 year history, and a choir of soloists was used exclusively through 1958. In that year, organist John Thoms decided to employ a community choir in worship. The result was the Westminster Choir which has brought beautiful music to hundreds of worshipers over the last thirty-three years. The choir of fifty-five has four paid soloist-choristers, and presents major works twice annually, and frequently sings at Longwood Gardens.

The Organist-Director

Patrick F. Downes is presently organist-director, and during his tenure major works performed include Dvorak's Stabat Mater, Brahms' Requiem, Faure's Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Britten's Ceremony of Carols, Vaughn Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem and Hodie, Schubert's Mass in G, Mozart's Vespers, Finzi's Magnificat and Pergolesi's Magnificat, Beethoven's Mass in C, and Haydn's Mass in Time of War.



DELAWARE STATE ARTS COUNCIL



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